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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNGA, UNSC
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL (SYG)

1. IN PRIVATE CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND AMBASSADOR SHERER DECEMBER 1, UNSC PRESIDENT DATCU (ROMANIA) INFORMED US, AS HE IS DOING TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN TURN, THAT HE HOPES TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF THE COUNCIL ON THE PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING THE ELECTION OF THE SYG AT THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SC SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 3. HE THEN SAID THAT IF THE MEMBERS AGREE HE WILL PROPOSE THAT THE BALLOTING IN FORMAL CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL NOT BEGIN UNTIL MONDAY, DEC. 6. THE REASON GIVEN WAS CONCERN ON THE PART OF SYG WALDHEIM THAT, IF HE RECEIVED A VETO IN BALLOTING ON FRIDAY, HE WOULD BE PLACED IN THE AWKWARD POSITION OF SUFFERING A WEEKEND OF HIS TENURE WITH AN OBVIOUS MARK AGAINST HIM. (NOTE: WE HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM SECRETARIAT SOURCES EARLIER IN THE WEEK THAT THE PLAN TO SPLIT THE VOTING OVER THE WEEKEND WAS PUT FORWARD BY THE CHINESE.) GOVERNOR SCRANTON GAVE U.S. SUPPORT TO DATCU'S PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE THE VOTING UNTIL DECEMBER 6.

2. DATCU ALSO MADE BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION. BASED ON HIS OUTLINE, AND THE DETAILS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE IN A CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL, WITH STRICTLY LIMITED ADMISSION. WHEN THE BALLOTING STARTS,
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THE PRESIDENT WILL DISTRIBUTE BALLOTS FOR THE NUMBER OF

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ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED. THE BALLOTS WILL BE MARKED YES, NO OR ABSTAIN. THE BALLOTS OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS WOULD BE MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK TO DISTINGUISH THEM FROM BALLOTS OF THE OTHER TEN SC MEMBERS. THE BALLOTS ON THE FIRST CANDIDATE WOULD BE COLLECTED AFTER THEY ARE MARKED BY THE MEMBERS. THEN THE BALLOTS FOR THE SECOND CANDIDATE WOULD BE MARKED AND COLLECTED IN THE SAME MANNER. ONLY AFTER ALL CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN VOTED IN THIS FASHION WOULD THE PRESIDENT SUPERVISE THE OPENING AND COUNTING OF THE BALLOTS. HE WOULD THEN ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS TO THE MEMBERS. CANDIDATES WILL BE VOTED ON IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, I.E., ECHEVERRIA FIRST, WALDHEIM SECOND.

3. WHEN THE VOTING RESULTS ARE ANNOUNCED, THE VOTES OF PERMANENT MEMBERS WILL BE MENTIONED ONLY IF A CANDIDATE HAS NINE OR MORE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES, BUT A NEGATIVE VOTE FROM A PERMANENT MEMBER. IF ONLY ONE CANDIDATE RECEIVES THE REQUIRED MAJORITY OF NINE VOTES WITH NO VETOES, THE ELECTION IN THE SC WILL BE OVER. IF NO CANDIDATE EMERGES THE CLEAR WINNER IN THE FIRST BALLOT, THE SECOND BALLOT WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE SAME MANNER; THE SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT BALLOTS, IT IS PLANNED, WILL BE CONDUCTED THE SAME DAY.

4. NEITHER THE SOVIETS NOR THE CHINESE HAVE PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE CORRIDOR SPECULATION AND PROBING THAT IS REACHING FEVER PITCH. THE SOVIETS, AS RECENTLY AS NOV. 30, WERE REPORTED BY A SECRETARIAT SOURCE TO HAVE PASSED WORD TO WALDHEIM THROUGH SOVIET NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL SHEVCHENKO THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION IS INSTRUCTED TO VETO ALL CANDIDATES OTHER THAN WALDHEIM UNTIL WALDHEIM IS ELECTED. THE SOVIETS ARE SAID TO OPPOSE ECHEVERRIA BECAUSE OF HIS STAND ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, BECAUSE HE IS LATIN AMERICAN AND THUS PRESUMABLY TOO VULNERABLE TO U.S. INFLUENCE.

5. WORKING LEVEL SOURCES REPORT THAT A CHINESE OFFICER STATED DECEMBER 1 THAT "CHINA WILL NOT ABSTAIN ON FRIDAY", WHICH IS BEING TAKEN AS WARNING THAT CHINA WILL VETO WALDHEIM, AT LEAST ON THE FIRST BALLOT. THE JAPANESE AND OTHERS

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(INCLUDING SEVERAL IN WALDHEIM'S OFFICE) BELIEVE THE CHINESE WILL VETO ON THE FIRST ROUND TO ENHANCE THEIR STANDING WITH NON-ALIGNED, AND TO PROVIDE AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE FOR A VIABLE THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE TO BUILD SUPPORT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CHINESE ARE REPORTED RECENTLY TO HAVE TOLD THE AUSTRIANS IN VIENNA, AND THE FRENCH IN PARIS, THAT THEY WILL NOT VETO WALDHEIM.

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6. THE JAPANESE CLEARLY HOPE WALDHEIM WILL BE ELECTED, BUT THEY ARE AGONIZING OVER HOW FAR THEY CAN AFFORD TO GO IN ASSURING THAT RESULT. JUN OFFICERS DECEMBER 1 SAID THEY HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AS YET AND ASSUMED TOKYO WAS HOPIMG FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A TIDE TOWARD WALDHEIM WHICH WOULD PROTECT JAPAN FROM THE NECESSITY OF A NEGATIVE VOTE AGAINST ECHEVERRIA (EITHER NO OR ABSTAIN).

7. THE FRENCH ARE FIRM IN SUPPORT OF WALDHEIM AND BELIEVE THAT IF THE WESTERN ALLIES COOPERATE IN ABSTAINING ON ECHEVERRIA A WALDHEIM VICTORY IS SAFE. THE BRITISH ARE LESS SURE THAT ABSTENTIONS CAN ENSURE A WALDHEIM ELECTION AND FORESEE THE PROBABLE NEED FOR A WESTERN VETO AGAINST ECHEVERRIA. UKUN HAS, IN ANY EVENT, REQUESTED PERMISSIVE INSTRUCTIONS, LETTING THEM MANAGE THE ELECTION ON THE GROUND, CASTING A NEGATIVE VOTE IF THAT SEEMS NECESSARY.
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